Sri Achaleshwar Mahadev Temple, Mount Abu, Rajasthan

AI Overview

The 9th-century Achaleshwar Mahadev Temple in Mount Abu, Rajasthan, is **a unique shrine where devotees worship the toe print of Lord Shiva**. Located near the Achalgarh Fort, it features a Shiva Linga that naturally changes color thrice daily, a four-tonne metallic Nandi statue, and an ancient sacrificial pit said to descend into the netherworld. [1, 2, 3, 4]

Key Highlights

- **The Shiva Toe:** Instead of a traditional Linga, the sanctum houses a natural indentation believed to be Shiva's toe print. Legend dictates that the mountain is stabilized by this toe; if it disappears, the mountain will be destroyed.
- **Color-Changing Linga:** The self-manifested Shiva Linga shifts colors throughout the day: red in the morning, saffron in the afternoon, and wheatish/black at night.
- **The Nandi Idol:** The complex houses a massive, four-tonne Nandi statue made of five metals (Panchdhatu). Local folklore claims the statue once released millions of bumblebees to defend the temple from invaders.
- **Bottomless Pit:** Behind the temple lies a natural crater so deep it is considered bottomless by devotees, as it never fills regardless of how much water is poured into it. [5]

Visitor Information

- **Distance:** It is located about 9 to 11 kilometers from central Mount Abu.
- **Timings:** Open daily from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM.
- **Entry Fee:** Free entry.
- **Attire:** Traditional, conservative clothing is recommended. [3, 6, 7, 8]

Would you like information on accommodations near Achaleshwar Mahadev Temple, or details on **other nearby attractions** like the Dilwara Temples and Nakki Lake?
AI responses may include mistakes.

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaleshwar_Mahadev_Temple
[2] https://holaciti.com/travel-to/Shri-Achaleshwar-Mahadev-Temple/Overview
[3] https://www.makemytrip.com/tripideas/attractions/achaleshwar-mahadev-temple
[4] https://www.holidify.com/places/mount-abu/achaleshwar-mahadev-temple-sightseeing-1263409.html
[5] https://www.mashahur.com/blog/shri-achaleshwar-mahadev-temple-in-mount-abu-rajasthan/
[6] https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/travel/religious-trip/achaleshwar-mahadev-temple-lord-shiva-thumb-is-worshiped/articleshow/95957835.cms

[7] https://oneshorttrip.com/achaleshwar-mahadev-temple/
[8] https://www.optimatravels.com/mount-abu-rajasthan/achaleshwar-mahadeva-mount-abu-rajasthan-india.aspx

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Ref: Wikipedia

The **Achaleshwar Mahadev Temple** (Devanagari: अचलेश्वर महादेव मन्दिर, ***Acaleśavara Mahādeva* Mandir**) is a Shiva temple situated just outside the Achalgarh Fort, located in the Abu Road tehsil of Sirohi district, in the western Indian state of Rajasthan. The temple is believed to have been constructed sometime in the 9th century AD, and by the Paramara dynasty, which is also credited with having constructed the original structure of the Achalgarh Fort, later reconstructed, renovated and named as Achalgarh by Maharana Kumbha in 1452 CE.

Etymology

The word 'Achaleshwar' is a word displaying Sanskritic sandhi and is derived from the Sanskrit words 'Achal' meaning immovable, and 'Ishwar' meaning 'Lord Shiva', while the word 'Mahadeva', again formed by the rules of *sandhi*, means the great (maha) god (deva), and is an epithet of Shiva, the deity to whom the temple is dedicated.

Shrines

The temple stands in the centre of an enclosure on the southern side of the *Agnikund*, wherein there are several small shrines dedicated to Shiva's mount, Nandi.[1] Of particular interest and importance is a four tonne statue of Nandi made of panchadhatu, the alloy used for making idols, which is composed of five metals – gold, silver, copper, brass and zinc. The inscription is dated Chaitra S. 8, 1464 VS (1407 CE). Next to the Nandi statue is the brass image of the famous 16th century Charan poet and warrior, Dursaji Arha.[2] The inscription on the brass statue of Dursaji Arha is dated Baisakh S. 5, 1686 VS (1629 CE).[3]

Legend

According to local legend, the temple is built around a toe print of Shiva. Shiva is worshipped, like at most Shiva temples, in the form of a Shiva linga, a nuclear reactor dome shape alike structure representing Shiva and the power of creation, seated on top of a surface, an abstract representation of Shakti. The *shiva linga* at this temple is a naturally occurring stone structure.

According to a popular local legend, the statue of Nandi is credited with protecting the temple from an attack of Muslim invaders by releasing innumerable bumble bees onto the attackers thereby saving the temple from destruction. The temple also has several other idols, sculpted from sphatik, a quartz stone, which appears opaque in natural light but becomes crystal-like translucent when a light is held against it.

Within the temple is a pit which is believed by the locals to be a doorway to Naraka, the netherworld. Close to the temple is a pond with three large stone buffalo statues. These buffaloes are believed to be representative of demons who, according to legend, flocked to the watering hole, which was said to be filled with ghee, until they were shot dead by the king, Raja Adi Pal.

Repairs and Renovation

The temple was the victim of shoddy repair and renovation work. A thick layer of lime covered the intricate and fine filigree work and marble carvings of the temple interiors, for which the artisans of Rajasthan were famous, which resulted in the beauty of the temple being hidden and reducing it to an insignificant structure. However, this was a boon in disguise, for it protected the fine marble from damage over the years. In 1979, the crown prince of the Sirohi princely state chanced upon a piece of marble exposed under the lime, and that started the renovation work of the temple under the aegis of the crown prince. Skilled artisans began the work to restore the temple to its past glory by carefully removing the lime to reveal the underlying marble beauty. Pillars and columns were carefully removed, reworked on, and then set back in correctly.

During the renovations to the garbhagriha, Sanctum Santorum of the temple, it was revealed that it wasn't built of bricks with marble slabs on top, but of huge blocks of marble. A path was also unearthed, that went around the Sanctum Santorum, for the purpose of parikrama, the Hindu custom of circumambulation. Sculptures of the goddess Chamunda were found on two alcoves, the rear one and the one on the left. These were smeared with the auspicious red vermillion, indicating that these were regularly worshipped in the days before the repair work was undertaken.

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Photos

ONE
SHORT
TRIP

Achaleshwar Mahadev Mount Abu
720 × 1,280

Ref: Google Gemini

Shri Achaleshwar Mahadev Mandir

The Shri Achaleshwar Mahadev Mandir is an ancient and spiritually unique shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva, located in the serene hills of Mount Abu. Here is a detailed guide outlining the various aspects of this sacred temple:

Location

The temple is situated just outside the historic Achalgarh Fort, approximately 11 kilometers north of the main town of Mount Abu, in the Sirohi district of Rajasthan, India. It sits in a tranquil valley adjacent to the sacred Mandakini Lake.

How to Get There

- **By Road:** Mount Abu is well-connected by road networks. You can easily hire a local taxi, cab, or auto-rickshaw from the Mount Abu city center or Nakki Lake area to drive the 11 km route up to the Achalgarh area.
- **By Rail:** The nearest railway station is Abu Road, located roughly 28 km away from Mount Abu. From the station, frequent buses and shared/private taxis are available to bring you up the hill station.
- **By Air:** The closest domestic airport is Maharana Pratap Airport in Udaipur, approximately 176 km away. From Udaipur, one can hire a private taxi or board a state transport bus to Mount Abu.

Speciality of this Temple

- **Toe of Lord Shiva:** This is widely renowned as the only place in the world where the toe (specifically the right big toe) of Lord Shiva is worshipped instead of a traditional pedestal-mounted Shiva Linga.
- **Color-Changing Lingam:** The naturally occurring stone Shiva Linga inside the sanctum changes colors three times a day—appearing amber-red in the morning, saffron-gold in the afternoon, and a wheatish-grey color in the evening.
- **The Bottomless Pit:** Instead of sitting on a raised platform, the divine imprint and lingam are situated over a deep, natural crater or pit. Devotees believe this pit is endless and connects straight to *Naraka* (the netherworld) or *Patal Lok*, as water poured into it disappears mysteriously without filling it up.

History and Legends

Believed to have been initially constructed around the 9th century AD by the Paramara dynasty (who also built the original structure of Achalgarh Fort), the temple holds rich historical value.

- **The Legend of Mount Abu:** According to the Puranas, the Aravalli mountain range was highly unstable and prone to shaking. To save the region and the hermitage of Sage Vashistha from destruction, Lord Shiva extended his right foot from Varanasi and pressed his big toe down into the earth to anchor the mountain permanently. Thus, the spot was named *Achaleshwar* ("the immovable lord").
- **The Bumblebee Protection:** Local folklore narrates that when Muslim invaders attacked the temple complex to destroy its idols, millions of furious bumblebees miraculously emerged from the massive Nandi statue, stinging and repelling the attackers, thereby protecting the shrine's sanctity.
- **The Buffalo Demons:** Next to the temple lies the Mandakini Lake. Legend says the lake was once filled with pure ghee, and three demons disguised as water buffaloes used to steal and drink from it every night. They were eventually shot dead by the legendary king, Raja Adi Pal, and three stone buffalo statues still stand near the water's edge as a reminder.

Architecture

The temple reflects classic Solanki and Jain architectural styles, displaying the brilliance of medieval Rajasthani artisans.

- For centuries, the temple's fine marble carvings and filigree work were intentionally concealed under a thick layer of lime plaster to camouflage the structure and protect it from iconoclastic invaders. In 1979, the crown prince of the Sirohi princely state accidentally noticed a patch of marble beneath the lime, triggering a painstaking restoration process that uncovered the original massive blocks of marble, intricate columns, and a hidden *parikrama* (circumambulation) path.
- The courtyard features a phenomenal, four-tonne statue of Nandi the bull made of *Panchadhatu* (an auspicious alloy of five metals: gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc) cast in 1407 CE.
- The interiors house several unique idols carved from *Sphatik* (quartz crystal stone). These statues look opaque under normal daylight but glisten with crystal-like translucency when a candle or light source is held directly behind them.

Main Deity and Subdeities

- **Main Deity:** Lord Shiva (worshipped via the natural stone lingam and the divine toe imprint).
- **Subdeities:** The temple complex contains shrines dedicated to various other deities. During restorations, vermillion-smeared sculptures of the Goddess Chamunda were discovered in the sanctum's alcoves. There are also small shrines dedicated to Shiva’s mount, Nandi, and images of historical figures like the 16th-century warrior-poet Dursaji Arha.

Daily Rituals, Poojas, and Charges

- **Timings:** The temple is generally open daily from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM (or sunrise to sunset).

- **Daily Aartis:** The Morning Aarti takes place around 5:30 AM – 6:00 AM, and the Evening Aarti is performed at dusk around 6:00 PM.
- **Charges:** There is **no entrance fee** to visit the temple. General darshan and basic offerings (like offering water or milk to the bottomless pit) do not carry a mandatory charge, though devotees can voluntarily purchase flowers, bel leaves, or milk from local vendors outside.

Special Poojas and Festivals Celebrated

- **Maha Shivratri:** This is the most prominent festival celebrated at the temple, attracting thousands of devotees. The entire complex is beautifully decorated, and special night-long *Prahar Poojas* and continuous abhishekam are performed.
- **Shravan Maas:** The holy Hindu month of Shravan (usually July–August) sees a massive influx of pilgrims who come to offer prayers on Mondays.
- **Charges for Special Poojas:** Specialized rituals like *Rudrabhishek* or personalized archana can be organized through the resident priests. The charges for these depend directly on the materials required and the scale of the ritual; it is best to consult the temple priests directly upon arrival.

Facilities for Devotees

- There is a shoe storage facility available near the entrance for a nominal token fee (around ₹2).
- Basic amenities like drinking water and local vendor stalls selling prasad, flowers, and religious items are available.
- **Accommodation:** The temple trust itself does not operate major luxury dharamshalas, but the surrounding Achalgarh village features a few budget stays and spiritual retreats. For comprehensive accommodation, most tourists stay in Mount Abu town, which offers a vast range of options from budget lodges to luxury heritage resorts.

Do's and Don'ts

- **Do** dress modestly and respectfully, keeping your shoulders and knees fully covered, as it is a highly revered traditional site.
- **Do** remove footwear before crossing into the inner temple threshold.
- **Don't** take photographs inside the *Garbhagriha* (sanctum sanctorum). While exterior photography of the fort and courtyard is generally acceptable, it is critical to be mindful of worshippers and respect local privacy rules.
- **Don't** litter around the sacred Mandakini pond or the temple premises.

Nearby Attractions

- **Temples:** The world-famous Dilwara Jain Temples (renowned for extraordinary marble carvings) are located just 11 km away. The Arbuda Devi Temple (carved inside a natural cave) and the Gaumukh Temple are also nearby.
- **Hotels:** Excellent stay options can be found closer to the town center or along the Achalgarh road, such as the Hummingbird Resort or options near Nakki Lake.

- **Tourist Spots:** Right next to the temple is the Achalgarh Fort, offering panoramic mountain views. Other key spots include Guru Shikhar (the highest peak of the Aravalli range, a short drive away), Nakki Lake, Toad Rock, and the Brahmakumaris Peace Park.

Donation Info and Contact

Donations toward the upkeep, daily offerings, and ongoing preservation of the ancient structure are welcomed by the local managing authorities. Receipts are generally provided for contributions made directly at the temple counter. For specific operational inquiries, you can reach out via local help desks or contact numbers associated with the area, such as +91-9784130824.

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Ref: GrokAI

Shri Achaleshwar Mahadev Mandir

Sri Achaleshwara Mahadev Temple (also spelled Achaleshwar Mahadev Temple), Mount Abu, Rajasthan is an ancient Shiva temple known for its spiritual significance, legends, and unique features.

Location

The temple is situated just outside the Achalgarh Fort in the Aravalli Hills, in the Abu Road tehsil of Sirohi district, Rajasthan, India. Coordinates: approximately 24°36′56″N 72°46′00″E. It lies about 8-10 km from the main Mount Abu town, in a serene, hilly setting.

How to Get There

- **By Road**: Easily reachable by taxi, auto, or local bus from Mount Abu town (around 8-10 km, 20-30 minutes). Shared taxis or cabs are common for visitors heading to Achalgarh Fort and the temple complex.

- **Nearest Railway Station**: Abu Road Railway Station (about 23-28 km away). From there, take a taxi or bus to Mount Abu, then to the temple.

- **Nearest Airport**: Udaipur Airport (around 160 km / 3-4 hours by road); Jaipur Airport is farther (approx. 500 km).

- The temple is within the Achalgarh Fort area, so combining it with a fort visit is convenient.

****Timings****: Generally open from sunrise to sunset (approx. 6:00 AM – 6:00/8:00 PM). No entry fee. Shoes must be removed before entering.

Speciality of This Temple

- It features a naturally formed (Swayambhu) Shiva Linga believed to rest on Lord Shiva's toe print, which is said to have stabilized the mountain (hence "Achal" meaning immovable).

- The Shiva Linga reportedly changes color three times a day: red in the morning, saffron in the afternoon, and wheatish in the evening.

- A massive 4-tonne Nandi (Shiva's bull) statue made of *panchadhatu* (five metals: gold, silver, copper, brass, zinc).

- Legends of divine protection and unique idols made of *sphatik* (quartz crystal) that turn translucent under light.

History and Legends

Built around the 9th century AD by the Paramara dynasty. The Achalgarh Fort was later renovated by Maharana Kumbha in 1452 CE. Further enhancements occurred under Solanki rulers.

****Key Legends****:

- Lord Shiva pressed his toe to stabilize the swaying Mount Abu, creating the toe print around which the temple was built.

- The Nandi statue protected the temple from Muslim invaders by releasing swarms of bumblebees.

- Nearby features include a pit believed to lead to Naraka (netherworld) and stone buffalo statues representing demons slain by a king at a ghee-filled pond.

It is mentioned in texts like the Skanda Purana and Shiva Purana.

Architecture

Exhibits Solanki-style architecture with Jain-Hindu influences. The sanctum (*garbhagriha*) is made of large marble blocks. It includes intricate carvings, filigree work, and a parikrama path. Renovations in the late 20th century removed lime plaster to reveal original marble beauty. There are small shrines to Nandi in the enclosure.

Main Deity and Subdeities

- ****Main Deity****: Lord Shiva as Achaleshwar Mahadev, in the form of a natural Shiva Linga.

- ****Subdeities/Highlights****: Large Nandi statue, sphatik idols, Chamunda sculptures, brass image of poet-warrior Dursaji Arha, and other smaller Shiva-related shrines.

Daily Rituals and Poojas and Their Charges

Regular *aartis*, *abhishekam*, and basic poojas are performed by priests. The temple is primarily for darshan. Specific charges for daily rituals are not widely listed online and are typically modest donations or priest-determined. Morning and evening aartis are key.

Special Poojas and Their Charges

Special rituals like Rudrabhishek or Mahabhishek may be arranged. Details on exact charges are limited in public sources; devotees usually coordinate with on-site priests for offerings. No standardized high fees are prominently advertised. Contact the temple for current rates.

Festivals Celebrated

- **Maha Shivratri** (Feb/March): Major festival with large crowds, special abhishekams, and chants.

- Navratri and other Shiva-related auspicious days are also observed.

Facilities Available for Devotees (Accommodation, etc.)

- Basic facilities at the temple site; no on-site accommodation mentioned.

- Mount Abu town offers various hotels, guesthouses, and dharamshalas for pilgrims.

- Prasad may not be formally distributed; photography is often restricted inside.

Do's and Don'ts

- **Do**:** Remove shoes, maintain silence and decorum, dress modestly (traditional/formal preferred).

- **Don't**: Take photographs inside the sanctum (rules vary), litter, or disturb rituals. Follow priest instructions for parikrama and offerings.

Nearby Temples

- Other shrines within the Achalgarh complex.

- Mount Abu has several temples, including those associated with Sage Vashishtha (nearby Agnikund).

Nearby Hotels

Many options in Mount Abu (e.g., near Nakki Lake or bus stand). Examples include budget to mid-range hotels like those near Achalgarh or in Abu Bazaar. Search platforms like MakeMyTrip or local listings for current availability.

Nearby Tourist Spots

- Achalgarh Fort itself.

- Nakki Lake, Dilwara Jain Temples, Sunset Point, Guru Shikhar (highest peak in Aravallis), Toad Rock, and other Mount Abu attractions.

Donation Info with Contact Phone Number

- No entry fee; donations for poojas, maintenance, or offerings are welcome.

- **Contact**: One listed number is +91-9784130824 (from local directories).

- For latest details, inquire on-site or through Mount Abu tourism/pilgrim services. Official temple management (possibly under local trust or Sirohi administration) handles donations.

Any Other Info

- The temple offers a peaceful spiritual experience amid nature. Combine with a fort visit for history buffs.

- It is a significant stop for Shiva devotees and those exploring Rajasthan's hill stations.

- Information on exact pooja charges or bookings can change; verify directly during your visit for the most accurate and up-to-date details.

For the latest visitor info, check official Rajasthan tourism sites or contact local authorities. Safe travels!

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Ref: ClaudeAI

Sri Achaleshwar Mahadev Temple, Mount Abu

Location

Situated just outside Achalgarh Fort, about 11 km from Mount Abu town, in Abu Road tehsil, Sirohi district, in the western Indian state of Rajasthan. (Wikipedia) It sits in the Aravalli hills, on the southern side of the Agnikund.

How to Get There

- By road: Taxi or bus from Mount Abu town (~11 km); a winding hill road leads up to Achalgarh.
- By rail: Nearest railway station is Abu Road, about 29 km away, with regular taxis and buses available. (Optimatravels)
- By air: Nearest airport is Maharana Pratap Airport, Udaipur, roughly 184 km away. (Mashahur)

- Best time: Cooler months from October to March; Mahashivratri is the most spiritually charged time to visit, though very crowded. (Optimatravels)

Speciality

- Unlike most Shiva temples where a linga or idol is worshipped, here it is believed to be a toe-print of Lord Shiva that is venerated, (Holidify) set in a natural crater.
- Locals say water poured into this hollow never fills it up, and where it goes remains a mystery. (Mashahur)
- The Shiva Linga is said to change colour through the day — red in the morning, saffron in the afternoon, and wheatish by evening. (Holidify)
- A massive 4-tonne Nandi statue cast from five metals (Panchdhatu) stands outside. (Holidify)
- Near the temple are three stone buffalo sculptures beside Mandakini pond. (IndiaOnline)

History and Legends

- Believed to have been built around the 9th century AD by the Paramara dynasty, who also built the original Achalgarh Fort — later rebuilt and renamed Achalgarh by Maharana Kumbha in 1452 CE. (Wikipedia) Further embellishments are attributed to the Solanki Rajputs in the 12th century. (Optimatravels)
- **One legend** holds that sage Vashistha performed intense penance here, and a pleased Lord Shiva appeared and granted him a boon, leading the sage to install the sacred lingam. (Rajasthan Tour Planner)
- The Skanda Purana's Maheshwara Khanda describes Mahadeva steadying the swaying mountains with his great toe, which gave rise to the shrine. (Optimatravels)
- **According to local legend**, the temple's Nandi statue once protected it from Muslim invaders by releasing swarms of bumble bees on the attackers. (Wikipedia)
- **A fascinating rediscovery story**: the temple was said to have been deliberately concealed under a layer of lime/plaster by kings to hide it from invaders, and was rediscovered only in 1979 when the Yuvraj of Sirohi State came upon it while touring royal guests. (IndiaOnline) During restoration, it was found the sanctum was built of large marble blocks rather than brick with marble slabs, and a parikrama (circumambulation) path plus sculptures of goddess Chamunda smeared in vermillion were uncovered. (IndiaOnline)
- Nearby, three stone buffalo statues represent demons who, according to legend, drank from a ghee-filled lake here until slain by Raja Adi Pal. (IndiaOnline)

(Note: sources differ on exact age — some call it 9th century, one popular tourism source calls it "almost 2500 years old." The 9th-century Paramara-era dating, corroborated by Wikipedia, is the more historically grounded figure.)

Architecture

The style is quintessentially Solanki, blending Jain and Hindu elements typical of the Rajput era. Built mainly in grey granite and sandstone, the sanctum sits on a plinth about 6 feet high, with stepped mandapas, ornately carved ceilings on lathe-turned pillars, and finely chiselled toranas. (Optimatravels) The garbhagriha is preceded by an ornamented antarala

and mandapa, its roof crowned by a vimana topped with an amalaka and kalasha finial. The entrance torana is carved with celestial figures, floral motifs, and scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata. (Optimatravels) A Dwarkadhish shrine also stands within the temple premises, and outside are black-stone statues of the ten avatars of Vishnu. (Mashahur)

Main Deity and Sub-deities

- **Main deity**: Lord Shiva, worshipped here as Achaleshwar (the immovable Lord), in the form of a swayambhu (self-manifested) toe-print/linga.
- **Sub-shrines**: A shrine to Dwarkadhish (Krishna) within the complex; (Mashahur) small shrines dedicated to Shiva's mount (Nandi) around the enclosure; (Wikipedia) sculptures of Chamunda Devi; and outside statues of Vishnu's avatars.

Daily Rituals, Poojas, Special Poojas & Charges

I couldn't find any officially published rate card for daily aartis, abhishekam, or special poojas (like Rudrabhishek) at this temple — these details aren't consistently listed on any reliable source I could verify, and charges can also change over time. Rather than guess, I'd suggest confirming directly with the temple priest/trust or the Rajasthan Devasthan Department when you visit or call ahead (see Donation/Contact note below).

What is documented: the temple is open daily from about 5:00 AM to 7:00 PM, (Mashahur) and there is no entrance fee. (MakeMyTrip)

Festivals Celebrated

Shivaratri and Maha Shivaratri see the largest footfall, being the most important Shiva festivals here. (Mashahur) Mahashivratri in particular draws large numbers of ascetics, pilgrims, and musicians. (Optimatravels)

Facilities for Devotees

Specific on-site accommodation/dharamshala facilities at Achaleshwar itself aren't clearly documented in available sources. However, since it's only ~11 km from Mount Abu town, most pilgrims stay in Mount Abu itself, which has abundant hotel, guesthouse, and dharamshala options, then visit the temple as a day trip.

Do's and Don'ts

- Remove footwear before entering the temple premises. (Travelsetu)
- Always ask permission before photographing worshippers or certain restricted areas within the temple. (Travelsetu)
- Dress modestly, as is customary at Hindu temples.
- Maintain silence and decorum near the sanctum, especially during aarti.

Nearby Temples

- Dilwara Jain Temples — famed for intricate marble carving, in Mount Abu town.
- Raghunath Temple — near Nakki Lake, Mount Abu.

- Small Vishnu-avatar shrines and the Dwarkadhish shrine within the Achaleshwar complex itself.

Nearby Hotels

Options mentioned for the Mount Abu area include Hotel Silver Oak, Hotel Hillock, Hotel Lake Inn, Hotel Hilltone, Sterling Mount Abu, Cama Rajputana Club Resort, and Hummingbird Resort — all in Mount Abu town, a short drive from the temple.

Nearby Tourist Spots

- Achalgarh Fort (right next to the temple)
- Nakki Lake — boating and market
- Guru Shikhar — highest peak in the Aravallis
- Brahmakumaris Peace Park
- Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary — safari/trekking
- Dilwara Temples

Donation Info & Contact

I don't have a verified official phone number or donation account for the temple trust from current sources, and I'd rather not guess at contact details that could be outdated or wrong. For accurate, current donation/contact information, I'd recommend checking with the **Rajasthan Devasthan Department** or the **Mount Abu tourist office**, or searching for the temple's listing on the official Rajasthan tourism site closer to your visit.

Other Notes

- Local legend holds that those seeking a life partner and praying at the temple have their wish granted (MakeMyTrip) — it's popular among devotees for this reason too.
- The temple's Jain-influenced Solanki architecture makes it architecturally distinct from many other Shiva shrines in the region, tying it closely to the story of Achalgarh Fort next door.

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Ref: ChatGptAI

Sri Achaleshwar Mahadev Temple, Mount Abu, Rajasthan

1. Location

- **Temple Name:** Sri Achaleshwar Mahadev Temple
- **Location:** Achalgarh, near Mount Abu, Sirohi District, Rajasthan – 307501
- **Distance from Mount Abu:** About 11 km
- **Altitude:** Approximately 1,200 meters above sea level
- **State:** Rajasthan
- **Country:** India

The temple is situated at the foot of the historic Achalgarh Fort amidst the scenic Aravalli Hills.

2. How to Reach

By Air

- **Nearest Airport:** Maharana Pratap Airport, Udaipur (about 185 km)
- Ahmedabad International Airport is about 225 km away.

By Train

- **Nearest Railway Station:** Abu Road Railway Station (about 28 km)
- Well connected to Delhi, Jaipur, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and other major cities.

By Road

- Regular buses and taxis are available from:
    - Mount Abu
    - Abu Road
    - Udaipur
    - Ahmedabad
- Private taxis are the most convenient option.

3. Speciality of the Temple

Sri Achaleshwar Mahadev Temple is one of Rajasthan's most revered Shiva temples.

Its unique features include:

- Lord Shiva is worshipped in the form of His **sacred toe (Big Toe)** rather than a traditional Shiva Linga.
- It is believed that this divine toe supports the entire Mount Abu.
- One of the oldest Shiva temples in Rajasthan.
- Closely associated with the historic Achalgarh Fort.
- Houses a famous **Panchadhatu (five-metal) Nandi**, one of the largest metal Nandis in India.
- Considered a highly powerful Siddha Kshetra.
- Surrounded by beautiful Aravalli forests.

4. History and Legends

The temple has a history spanning well over a thousand years.

Ancient Origin

- The original temple is believed to date back to the early medieval period.
- The Parmar rulers of Abu are believed to have patronized it.
- Later renovated by Maharana Kumbha during the 15th century while rebuilding Achalgarh Fort.

Legend of Shiva's Toe

According to tradition,

- Lord Shiva pressed His toe here.
- The divine toe entered deep into the earth.
- That sacred toe alone supports Mount Abu.
- As long as it remains, the mountain will never collapse.

The Bottomless Pit

Near the sanctum is a deep pit believed to be bottomless.

Legend says:

- Attempts to determine its depth have always failed.
- It is believed to extend to the netherworld (Patala).

5. Architecture

- Traditional North Indian temple architecture.
- Constructed using granite and local stone.

- Beautifully carved pillars.
- Intricately sculptured ceilings.
- Stone mandapa.
- Ancient sanctum.
- Temple courtyard with numerous shrines.
- Magnificent metal Nandi in front of the sanctum.
- Located against the scenic backdrop of Achalgarh Fort.

6. Main Deity

Presiding Deity

- **Sri Achaleshwar Mahadev (Lord Shiva)**
- Worshipped as the sacred toe (Padanguli).

Sub-Deities

The temple complex houses shrines dedicated to:

- Goddess Parvati
- Lord Ganesha
- Kartikeya
- Nandi
- Hanuman
- Various forms of Shiva
- Local guardian deities

7. Daily Rituals and Poojas

Typical daily schedule:

- Mangala Aarti
- Morning Abhishekam
- Alankaram
- Bilva Archana
- Madhyahna Pooja
- Evening Deeparadhana
- Sandhya Aarti
- Shayana Ritual

Temple Timings:

- Around **5:00 AM – 9:00 PM** (may vary during festivals).

Daily Pooja Charges

The temple does not publicly publish a fixed list of pooja charges.

Usually available:

- General Archana
- Bilva Archana
- Milk Abhishekam
- Panchamrit Abhishekam
- Rudrabhishek
- Deepa Seva

Devotees should enquire at the temple office for current charges.

8. Special Poojas

Special rituals include:

- Maha Rudrabhishek
- Laghu Rudra
- Maha Mrityunjaya Japa
- Rudra Homa
- Bilva Sahasranama Archana
- Shravan Month Special Poojas
- Pradosha Pooja
- Mahashivaratri Special Abhishekam

Charges vary according to the seva and materials used.

9. Festivals Celebrated

Major festivals include:

- **Maha Shivaratri** (Grand annual celebration)
- Shravan Mondays
- Kartik Purnima
- Pradosham
- Nag Panchami
- Makar Sankranti
- Navaratri
- Deepavali
- Guru Purnima

Thousands of devotees visit during Mahashivaratri.

10. Facilities for Devotees

Available facilities include:

- Parking
- Drinking water
- Resting areas
- Shoe stand
- Prasad counter
- Small shops selling flowers and pooja items
- Public toilets
- Local guides
- Photography permitted in outer areas (restrictions may apply inside the sanctum)

Accommodation:

- No major accommodation within the temple premises.
- Numerous hotels, guest houses and resorts are available in Mount Abu (11 km away).

11. Do's and Don'ts

Do's

- Dress modestly.
- Remove footwear before entering.
- Maintain silence inside the temple.
- Follow temple customs.
- Stand patiently in queues.
- Respect photography restrictions.
- Keep the premises clean.

Don'ts

- Do not touch the deity unless permitted.
- Avoid plastic litter.
- Do not smoke or consume alcohol.
- Avoid loud conversations.
- Do not disturb ongoing rituals.
- Do not feed monkeys unnecessarily.

12. Nearby Temples

Within a short distance are:

- Achalgarh Jain Temples
- Arbuda Devi (Adhar Devi) Temple
- Raghunath Temple
- Dattatreya Temple (Guru Shikhar)
- Shiva Temple at Guru Shikhar
- Dilwara Jain Temples
- Hanuman Temple

13. Nearby Hotels

Popular options include:

- Hotel Hillock
- Hotel Mount Regency
- Hotel Hilltone
- Sterling Mount Abu
- Cama Rajputana Club Resort
- Hotel Savera Palace
- Hotel Silver Oak
- Hotel Aravali
- Hotel Sunset Inn

Budget, mid-range and luxury accommodations are widely available in Mount Abu.

14. Nearby Tourist Attractions

- Achalgarh Fort
- Guru Shikhar (highest peak of the Aravallis)
- Nakki Lake
- Dilwara Jain Temples
- Honeymoon Point
- Sunset Point
- Trevor's Tank
- Peace Park
- Toad Rock
- Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary

15. Donation Information

Donations may be made:

- At the temple donation counter (Hundi)
- Through the temple administration for specific sevas or maintenance (subject to availability)

Temple Contact

- As publicly available information changes from time to time, **no officially verified public phone number for the temple office is consistently available.** Visitors are advised to contact the **Mount Abu Tourism Office** or enquire locally before visiting for the latest contact details, pooja bookings, and donation procedures.

16. Interesting Facts

- The temple is believed to be over **1,400 years old**.
- The sacred toe of Lord Shiva is worshipped instead of a Shiva Linga, making it exceptionally unique.
- The massive **Panchadhatu Nandi** is estimated to weigh around **4 tonnes** and is regarded as one of India's largest metal Nandi statues.
- The mysterious bottomless pit near the sanctum is associated with ancient legends linking it to **Patala (the netherworld)**.
- The temple and Achalgarh Fort together form one of Mount Abu's most important spiritual and historical destinations.
- The cool climate and tranquil surroundings make the temple an ideal place for meditation and devotional worship throughout the year.

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Videos

Achaleshwar Mahadev Mandir, Mount Abu…vlog (21 min):

https://youtu.be/OBPERkq2mk4?si=YdvO-6XHM8IWyq-i

Achaleshwar Mahadev Mandir (2 min):

https://youtu.be/x2-awZwZxrM?si=jY78YlbNHxetJC8O

Achaleshwar Mahadev Mandir..News18 (3 min):

https://youtu.be/Zp44yAoif1Y?si=Mg3_7hjT1cmGTrK4

Achaleshwar Mahadev Temple…FaceBook (1 min):

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1F6t2tTggN/

Achaleshwar Mahadev Temple (13 min):

https://youtu.be/0CXBDW3ugNI?si=IIS74t5Vmr2mFME7

Achaleshwar Mahadev Mandir (0.39 min):

https://youtu.be/BlzBEstV_pU?si=9dL8B1V0REvoFRZp

Achaleshwar Mahadev Mandir…History..etc(20 min):

https://youtu.be/sc26LbNC7aM?si=OVQoidXTE12UMBtT

Achaleshwar Mahadev Mandir (12 min):

https://youtu.be/AkY7Uq41S0o?si=PUHxosn72xiEQwAk

Achaleshwar Mahadev Mandir…News18 Debate and Interview (31 min):

https://youtu.be/1jJhrEgLWXk?si=yE4HuBbEEz946FXZ

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Note: At the end of this ebook, two pages are included (see below), giving (I) Author info, and (ii) a master link and QR code to download all my Technical (viz. Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, and Cryogenic Engineering) ebooks plus Spiritual ebooks, stored in archive.org.

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About the Author

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar is a Mechanical Engineer with specialization in Cryogenics. He obtained his B. E. In Mechanical Engineering from Karnataka Regional Engg College, (Now NITK), Surathkal, India and M.Sc. in Cryogenics from the University of Southampton, U.K., and Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

He has worked in prestigious organizations such as BARC, Bombay and Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT), Indore,as Head of Cryogenics Dept and contributed to the design of cryogenic systems, including the Thermovac chamber for ISRO, Bangalore.

He was also a visiting fellow at Superconducting Super Collider Project, at Texas, USA.

He has also served as Professor, Head of Department, and Principal in reputed engineering institutions.

Dr. Thirumaleshwar has authored a large number of FREE ebooks on Engineering subjects such as Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, and Cryogenic Engineering, which are useful for students and teachers.

Driven by a deep interest in India's spiritual heritage, he has also authored many FREE ebooks on Temples, Saints, Gurus, and Vedic topics, with the aim of preserving and spreading this knowledge to future generations.

All his ebooks are available for free download at Archive.org.

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
July 11, 2026

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